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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland/Czechoslovakia/Germany (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR. 28 Oct 1953

SUBJECT Alternate Routes Under Consideration for Deep Channel Connections Between The Oder, Danube and Elbe Systems

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1. An inland waterway linking the Danube Basin (Black Sea) with the Baltic and North Sea has long been a dream in central Europe. Because a number of routes are possible, involving several countries, the matter has always been, and still is, cluttered with politics. No specific information has come to my attention that a choice of routes has been decided upon, but it is well known in exile Polish engineering circles that the Communist regimes in central Europe are as anxious now, as their predecessors were before them, to complete such a project.

2. There are five possible routes available. Each has certain advantages and disadvantages. Some are, from an engineering point of view, obviously superior to others. To point up what can be done when a final choice is made and construction begun, [redacted] prepared a series of studies comparing the various features of each route. These studies, [redacted] are self explanatory, are set forth on the following pages.

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3. Lengths of the proposed inland navigable waterways for linking the Danube Basin (Black Sea) with the Baltic and North Sea; and the kilometer posts and altitudes of the respective points:

Danube Oder Vistula Baltic Sea			Danube Oder Baltic Sea			Danube Elbe North Sea			Danube Main Rhine North Sea			Danube Neckar Rhine North Sea		
Locality	Km	M	Locality	Km	M	Locality	Km	M	Locality	Km	M	Locality	Km	M
*Devin	0	134	Devin	0	134	Devin	0	134	Devin	0	134	Devin	0	134
Hedonin	78	175	Hedonin	78	175	Hedonin	78	175	Vienna	52		Vienna	52	
Prerov	156	205	Prerov	156	205	Prerov	156	205	Linz	258		Linz	258	
									Passau	349	280	Passau	349	280
Hranice	180	257	Hranice	180	257	Olomouc	176	220	Vilshofen	374	289	Vilshofen	374	289
Czernotin	185	270	Czernotin	185	270	Kraliky	251	380	Regensburg	499	327	Regensburg	499	327
Morawska Ostrava	240	209	Morawska Ostrava	240	209	Chocen	296	284	Kelheim	533	338	Kelheim	533	338
Raciborz	276	190	Raciborz	276	190	Pardubice	327	217						
Slawecice	301	182	Slawecice	301	182	Kolin	372	195	Scheitel-Haltung	600	406	Ulm	730	460
Kozle	316	168	Kozle	316	168	Melnik	457	157	Nurnberg	635	303	Geisunger	760	569
Opole	361	150	Opole	361	150	Strekov	526	141	Würzburg	836	168	Plochingen	802	262
Dobrzen W.	375	146	Dobrzen	375	146	Ustie	528	133	Aschaffen-berg	996	111	Heilbronn	896	170
						Czech-Slov			Frankfurt	1056	95	Mannheim	1009	103
Siemanice	435	170	Wroclaw	473	115	Germany Frontier	566	121	Mainz	1089	84	Mainz	1095	84
Kalisz	506	103	Ransen	484	106	M. of Elster-	766	74						
Konin	570	99	Kistrzyn	837	11	M. of Saale-	857	55	Ruhrort	1369		Ruhrort	1375	
Glinka	574	83	Szczecin (Stettin)	957	2	M. of Ohre-	906	45	Rotterdam	1584		Rotterdam	1590	10
Gawrony	599	84	Swinioussue-	1022	0	M. of Havel-	997	34						
Kruszwica	629	77				M. of Elbe -	1071	25						
Krazkowo	671	75				M. of Jetzel-	1091	23						
Legnowo	687	30				M. of Jude-	1121	19						
Grudziadz	753	17				M. of Seeve-	1170	13						
Tczew	827	3				Humburg	1187							
Gdansk (Danzig)	851	0				Cux Haven-	1292	0						

* NOTE: The locality, Devin, at the mouth of Morava River on the Danube, which is common for all routes, is 1877 km from the Black Sea or 1688 km from Braila, the port on the Danube

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4. Comparison of characteristic data concerning proposed or under construction inland navigable waterways linking the Danube Basin with the Baltic or North Sea:

Inland Navigable Waterway	Length	Watershed-Above-sea-level	No. of locks	Head Which Must Be Overcome			Estimated Time of Journey	Estimated No. of Journeys Per Year	Estimated Cost of Transport. per 1 Ton
				By means of locks	In rivers	Total			
	Km	M		M	M	M	Days		Dollars & Cents
Danube-Oder-Vistula-Baltic Sea (Devin-Danzig)	851	270	62	425	30	455	9	10	1.32
Danube-Oder-Baltic Sea (Devin-Stettin)	957	270	53	300	106	406	10	9	1.59
Danube-Elbe-North Sea (Devin-Hamburg)	1187	380	71	493	133	626	12 1/2	8	2.03
Danube-M... - Rhine-North Sea (Devin-Rotterdam)	1584	406	68	510	168	678	17	6	2.96
Danube-Neckar-Rhine-North Sea (Devin-Rotterdam)	1590	369	86	817	187	1004	17	6	2.78

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5. Degree of development of the proposed inland navigable waterways linking the Danube Basin with the Baltic or North Sea:

Inland Navigable Waterway Stretch	The Name of the Canal or River	Projected	Under Construction	Total to be Completed	Existing	Total Length
		Km	Km	Km	Km	Km
Danube-Oder-Vistula Baltic Sea						
From To						
Devin Slawecice	Oder-Danube Canal	301		301		
Slawecice Dobrzenw.	S[illegible]n. & Oder				74	
Dobrzenw. Konin	O[illegible]a Can.	199		199		
Konin Wojdal	Wa[illegible]				86	
Wojdal Legnowo	No[illegible]Vistula Can.	27		27		
Legnowo Danzig	Vistula River				164	
		527		527	324	851
Danube-Oder-Baltic Sea						
From To						
Devin Slawecice	Oder-Danube Canal)	301		301	656	
Slawecice Stettin	Silesian Canal & Oder)					
		301		301	656	957
Danube-Elbe-North Sea						
From To						
Devin Prerov	1st. part Oder-Danube Can.	156		156		
Prerov Pardubice	Morava-Elbe Canal	171		171		
Pardubice Melnik	Canalized Elbe		130	130		
Melnik Hamburg	Elbe				730	
		327	130	457	730	1187
Danube-Main-Rhine North Sea						
From To						
Devin Regensburg	Danube River				499	
Regensburg Wurzburg	Canalized Danube & Danube-Main Canal		337	337		
Wurzburg Rotterdam	Main & Rhine River				748	
			337	337	1247	1584
Danube-Neckar Rhine-North Sea						
From To						
Devin Regensburg	Danube River				499	
Regensburg Plochingen	Canalized Danube & Danube-Neckar Can.	303		303		
Plochingen Heilbronn	Canalized Neckar		94	94		
Heilbronn Rotterdam	Neckar & Rhine Rivers				694	
		303	94	397	1193	1590

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